

ULTIMATE COMICS™

X-MEN

ISSUE 03



MARVEL

SPENCER
MEDINA
VLASCO
GRACIA

Keane

**LIVING IN A WORLD
WHERE MUTANTS ARE
HATED AND FEARED MORE
THAN EVER, ONE GROUP
OF YOUNG HEROES HAS
BANDED TOGETHER TO
FIGHT BACK.**

ULTIMATE COMICS X-MEN



PREVIOUSLY:

When it was revealed that the U.S. government was responsible for the creation of the X-gene, the world reacted violently. With most mutants locked up in camps, the order is to capture or kill any others on sight. Some mutants have gone into hiding while others, such as Wolverine's son Jimmy Hudson, went off to find answers of their own. Kitty Pryde a.k.a. The Shroud, Bobby Drake a.k.a. Iceman, and Johnny Storm a.k.a. The Human Torch have banded together to save the former X-Man Rogue from mutant-hunting robots. After Bobby was injured, the young heroes retreated and regrouped only to learn that Rogue was on a mission from a voice claiming to be God. Meanwhile, mutant-hating William Stryker, also motivated by some divine inspiration, has started to make his move against mutantkind...

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THE WHITE HOUSE. WASHINGTON, D.C.



VALERIE COOPER,
SPECIAL LIAISON TO THE PRESIDENT ON
SUPERHUMAN AND MUTANT AFFAIRS



Nice job
at the press
conference,
Ms. Cooper.

Shut up,
Harris.



SLAM



Pardon.

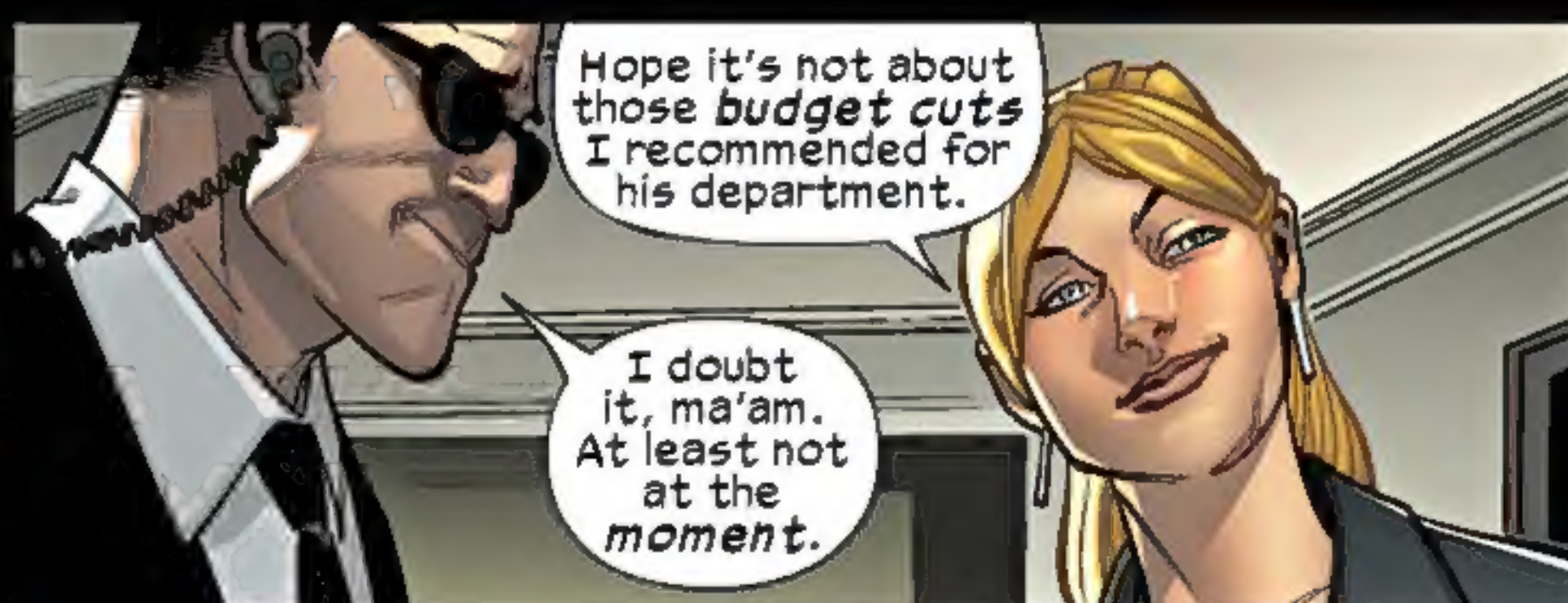


Hey, Dan.
That was
General Fury,
right?

Indeed,
ma'am.

He looks
pissed.

Indeed,
ma'am.



Hope it's not about
those **budget cuts**
I recommended for
his department.

I doubt
it, ma'am.
At least not
at the
moment.



No? What's
the problem
now, then?

Er--best
you see for
yourself,
ma'am.

That good,
huh? **Fantastic**,
I can hardly--



--wait.





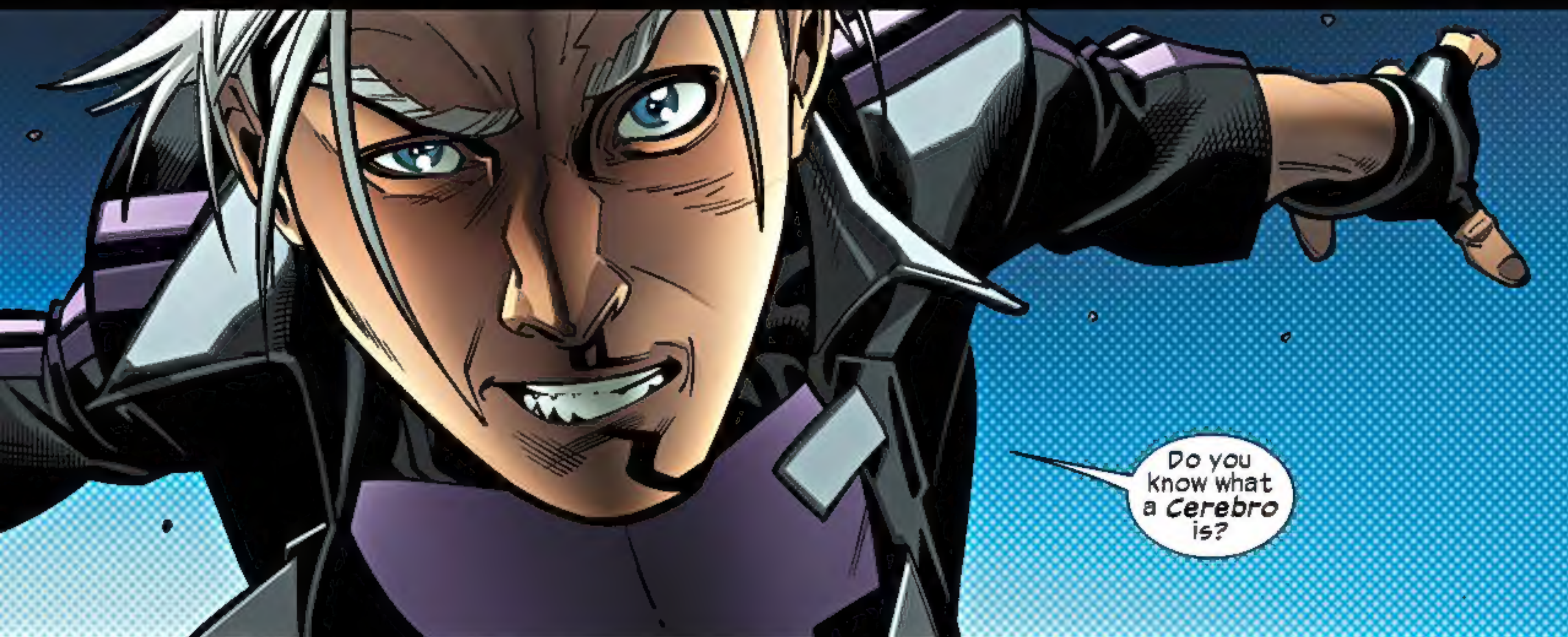
Of course, *of course*. You're a *very* important woman, I hardly wish to waste your time. My point is, all these new threats...



They come from all sides. And so many of your security measures are *reactionary*, or *defensive*, in nature.



If *only* the technology existed to help you track and identify these threats as they *emerge*. To empower you to act *proactively*, and *decisively*. Tell me, Ms. Cooper--



Do you know what a *Cerebro* is?

TIMES SQUARE.

We used to come down here on Saturdays. After dark. I hated it. Always so full of tourists. But she loved the lights.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

LOS ANGELES.

CHICAGO.

NEW YORK CITY.

Look what your lies have done to us.

Sir, the shipers are in position.

Mm? Good. Very good.

On my word, then, gentlemen--

Let's take our country back.

THE MORLOCK TUNNELS,
BENEATH NEW YORK CITY.

Kitty,
please, just
listen--

No, Rogue,
you listen
to me--

God didn't tell you to do
this. God didn't tell you to
do *anything*. You're--I
dunno--*post-traumatic*
or something.

It was
bound to
happen to one
of us, with
everything that's
gone down this
year...

That's
not what
this is.
Bobby,
tell her--

Nooo
way--I am *not*
getting dragged
into this.

Ooh, yeah,
ex-girlfriend fight,
scary stuff.

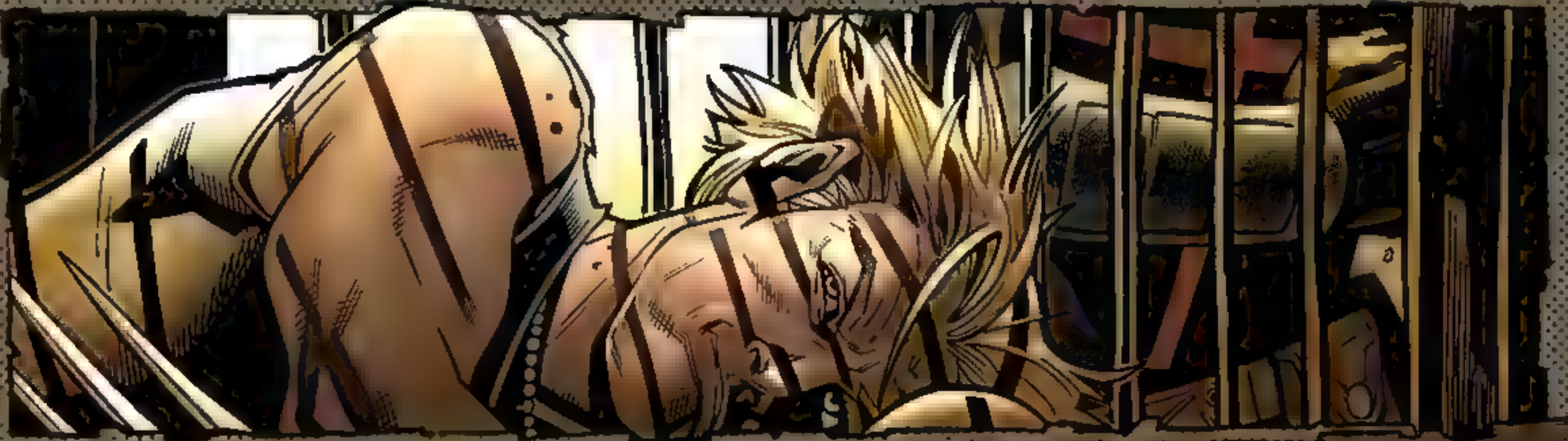
Scary,
kinda sexy
stuff.

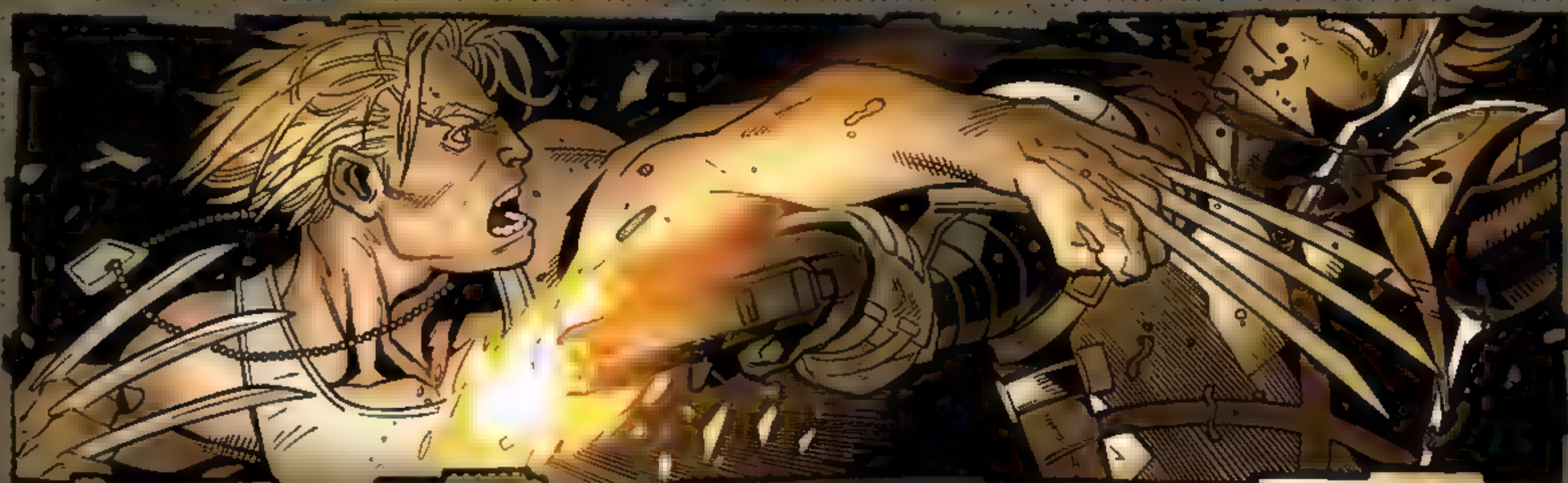
Look, you can
stay here *tonight*,
until we can figure out
how to...get you some
help or something. In
the meantime, try to
sleep off the
crazy.

GRRRK GRRK

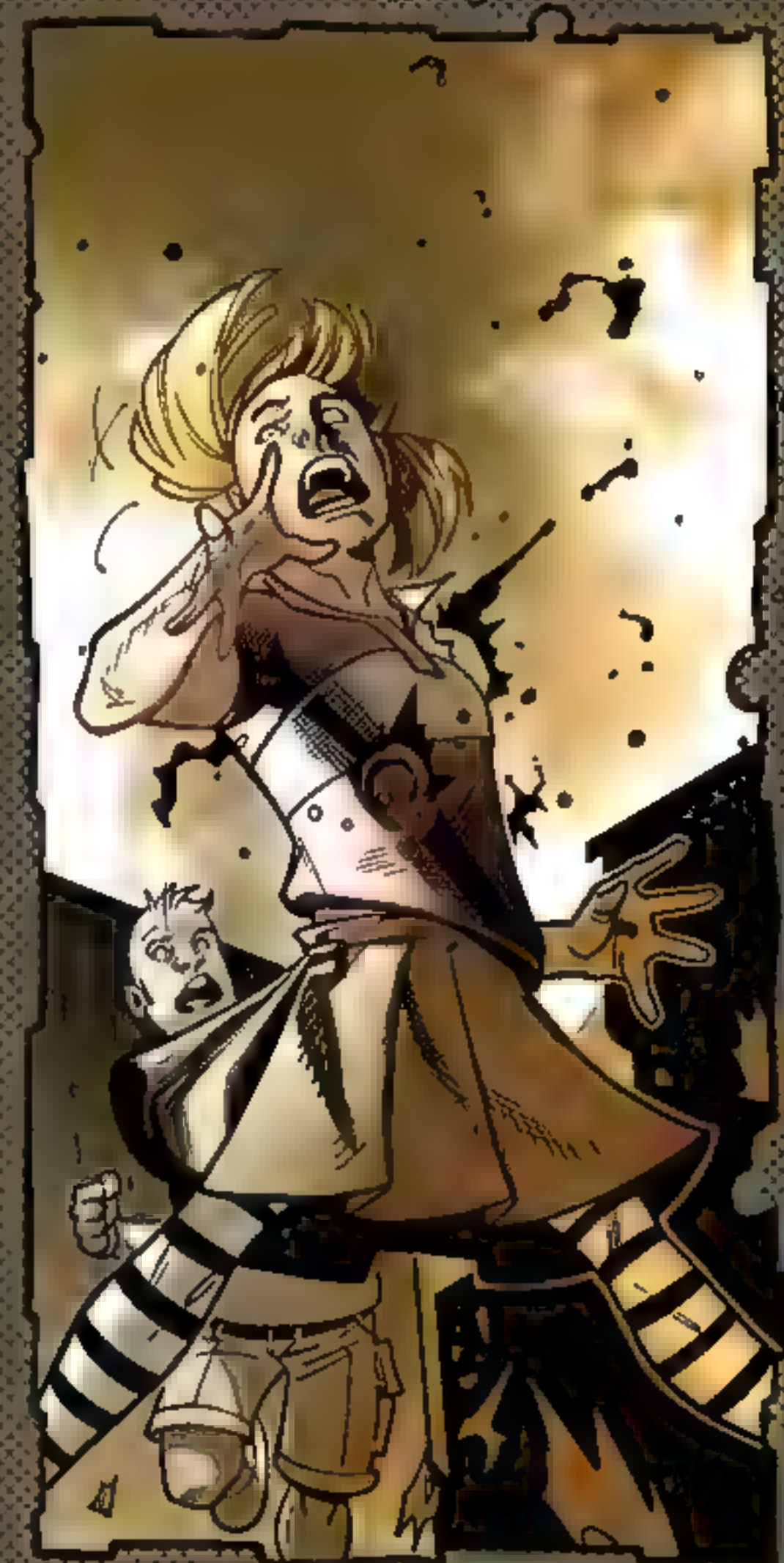
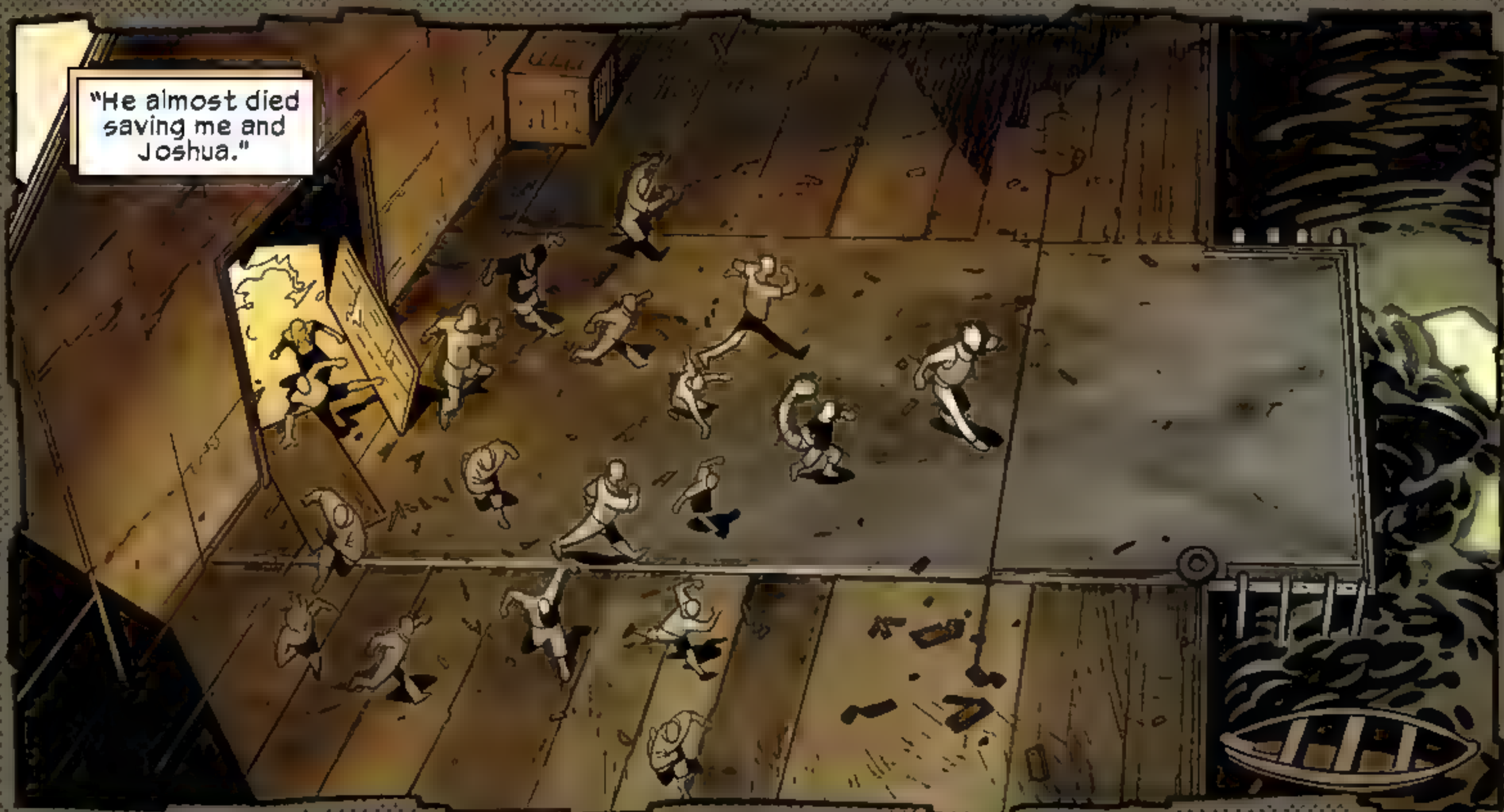


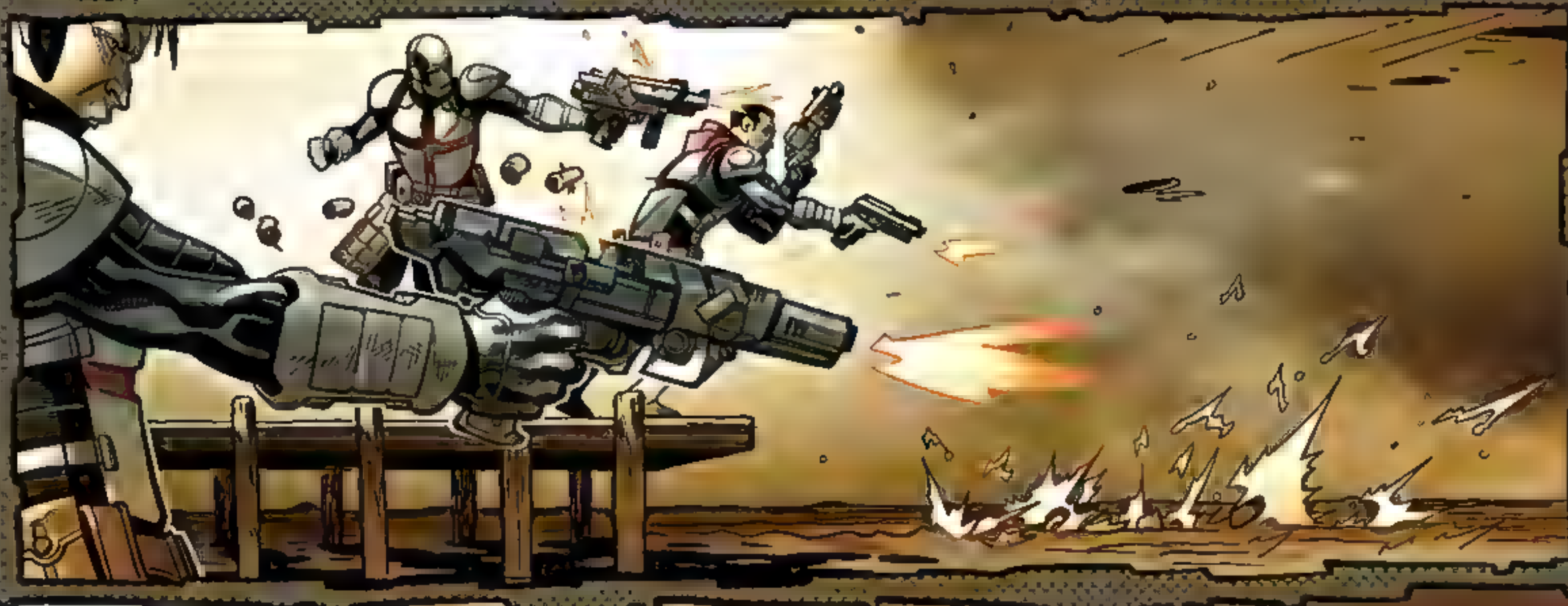
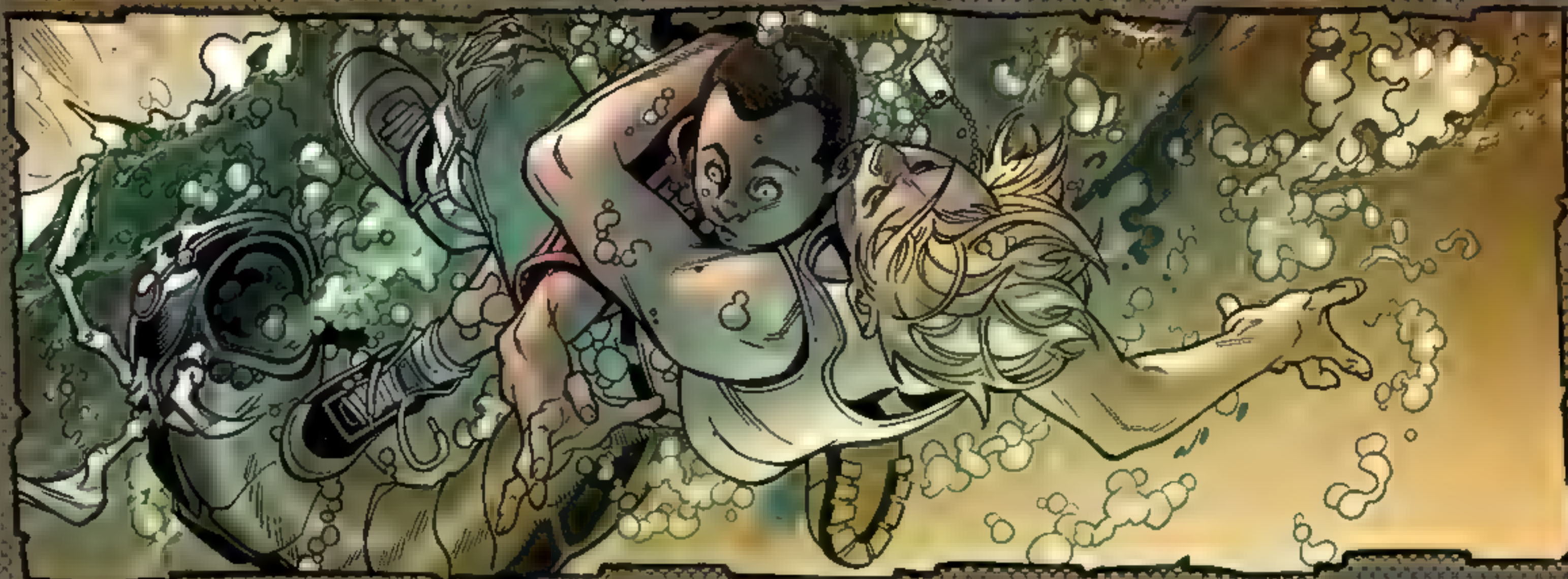




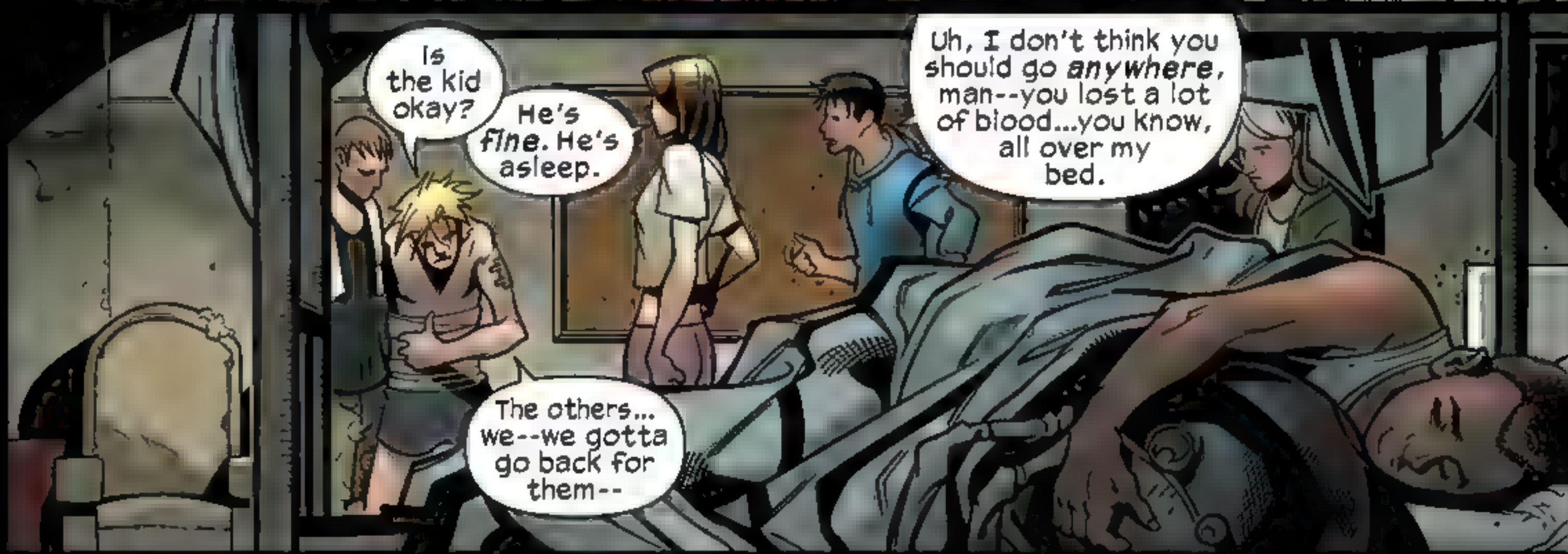


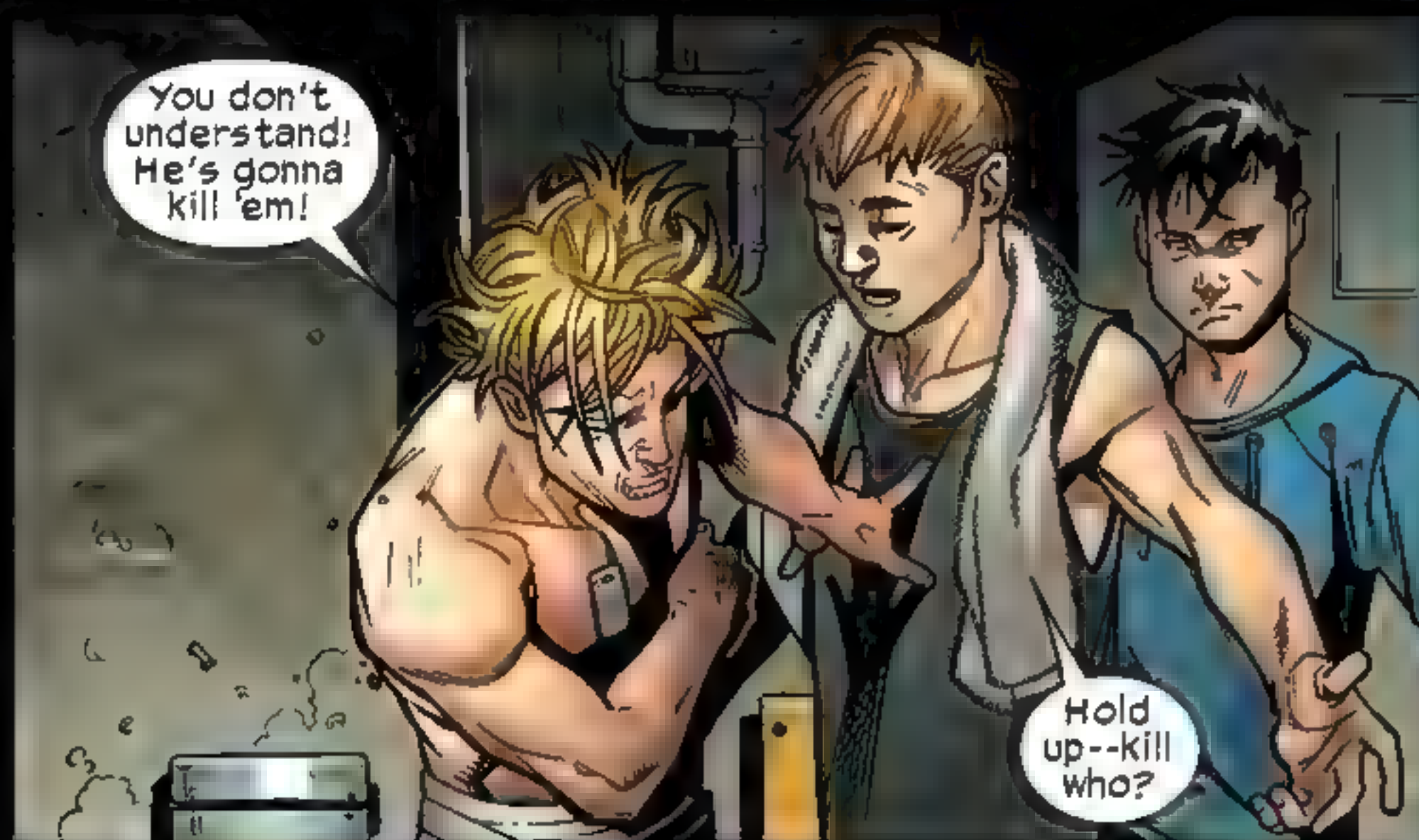
"He almost died
saving me and
Joshua."





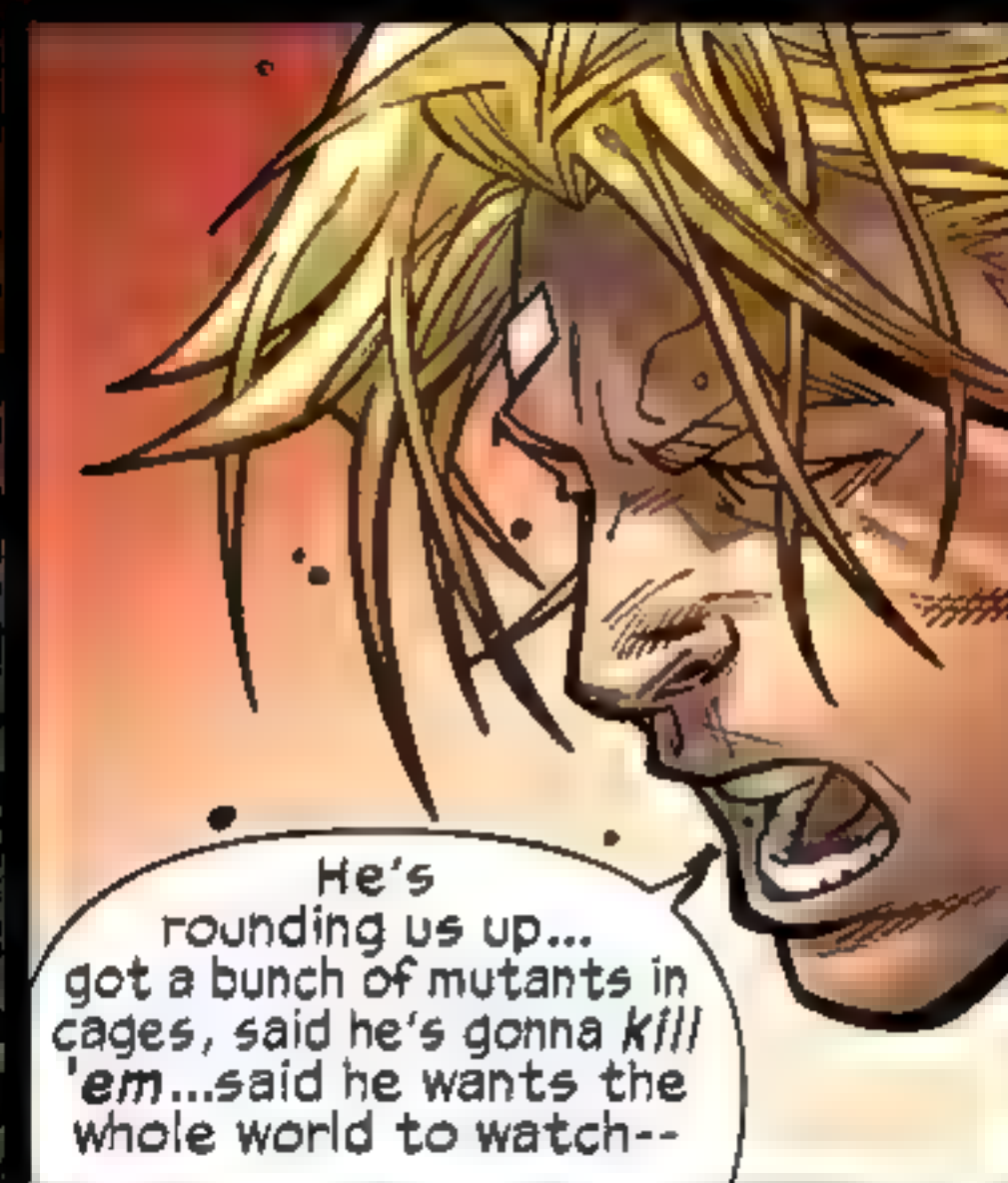
"Oh good,
he's up..."



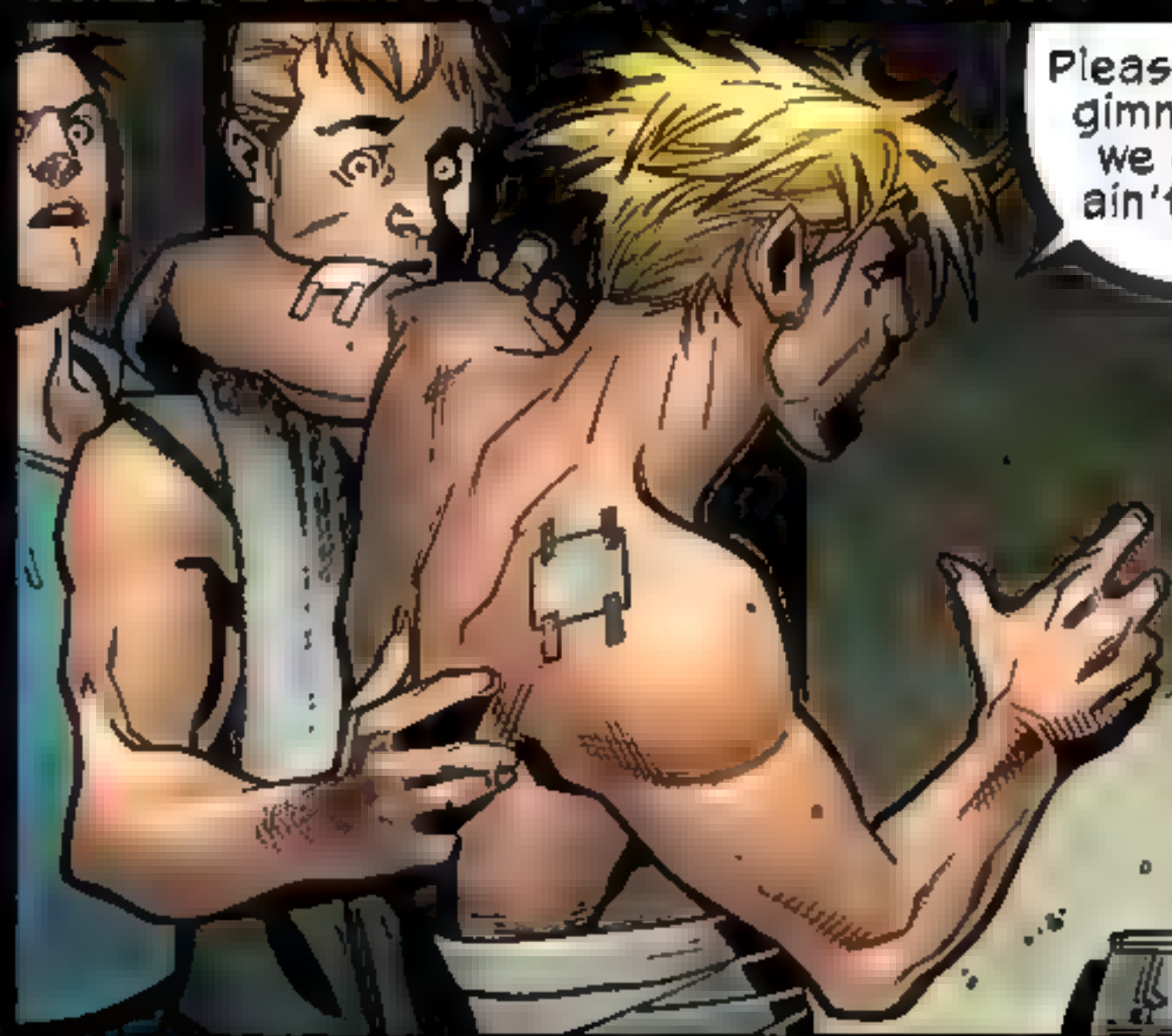


You don't understand! He's gonna kill 'em!

Hold up--kill who?



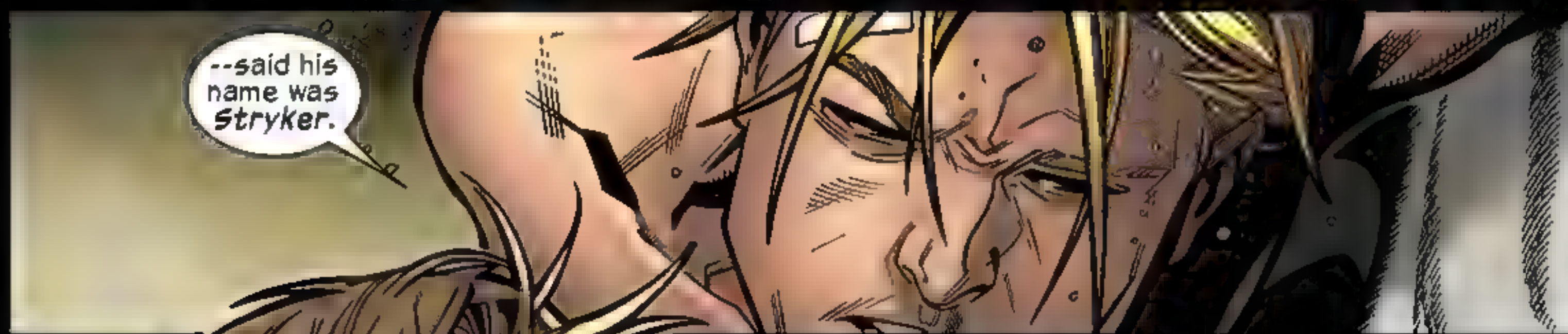
He's rounding us up... got a bunch of mutants in cages, said he's gonna *kill* 'em...said he wants the whole world to watch--



Please, come on, gimme a hand-- we gotta go, ain't got much time...

Hold on-- who? Who did this?

Mean bastard, looked like a Sentinel with skin. Said his name was--

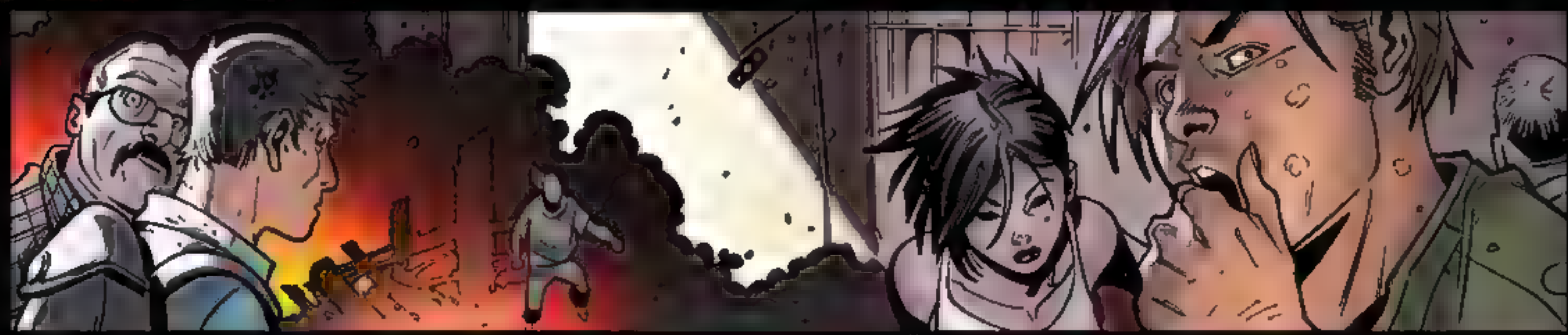


--said his name was **Stryker**.



Now.







TO BE CONTINUED...

ULTIMATE PRAISE!

"Spencer has found a vein that he can tap much energy from for his comic, and Medina's pencils are a perfect fit for such vision."

— Rafael Gaitan, Comics Bulletin

"This is a well written, well drawn book"

— Alex Zalben, MTV Geek

"Medina provides an energy to the characters that imbues those characters with energy and life."

— Doug Zawisza, Comic Book Resources

"As always, Spencer is able to write characters who are grounded and believable even in the face of larger-than-life events."

— Jesse Schedeen, IGN

"That said, if, like me, you're eager for a book without the usual trappings and find the prospect of real plot progression and character advancement more exciting than not, this is the book for you."

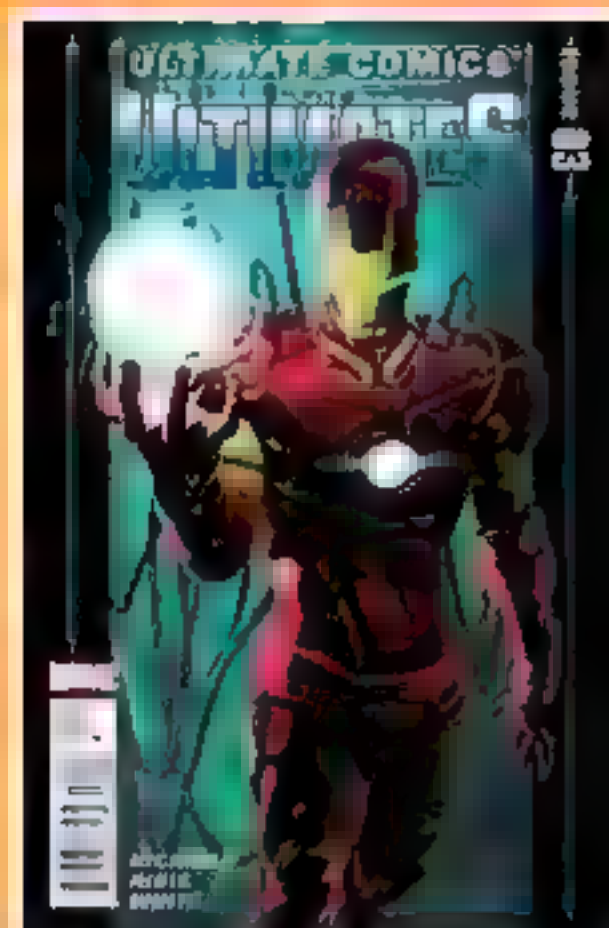
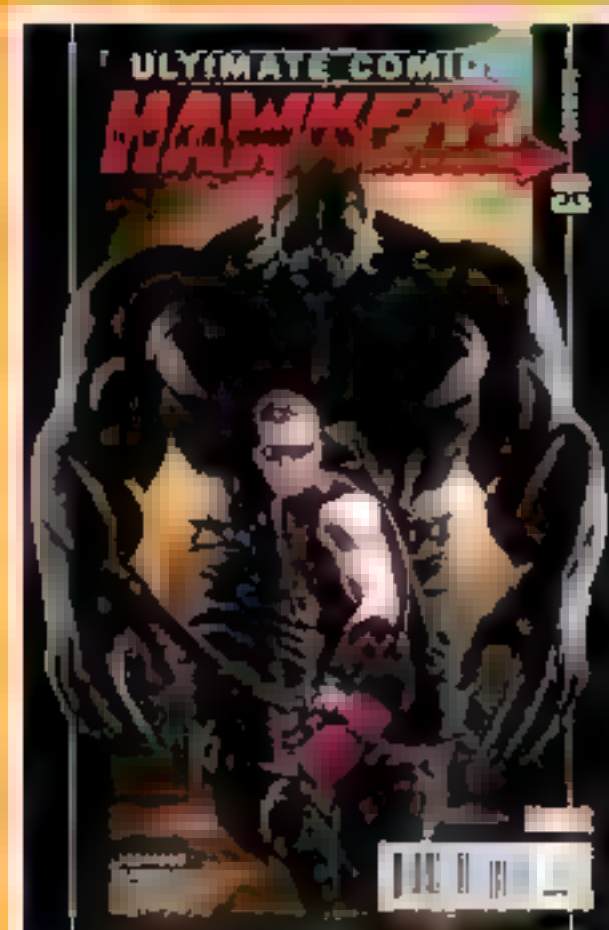
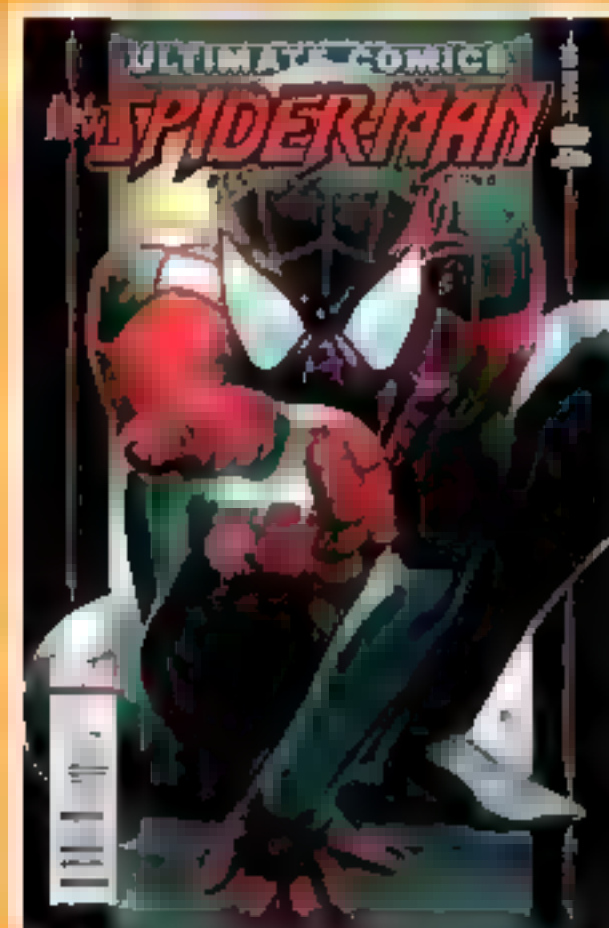
— Paul Montgomery, iFanboy

"...It exists as a solid check in the "win" category for Marvel."

— Joshua Moele, Multiversity Comics



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MARVEL EXCLUSIVE PREVIEW

JEPH LOEB • ED MCGUINNESS

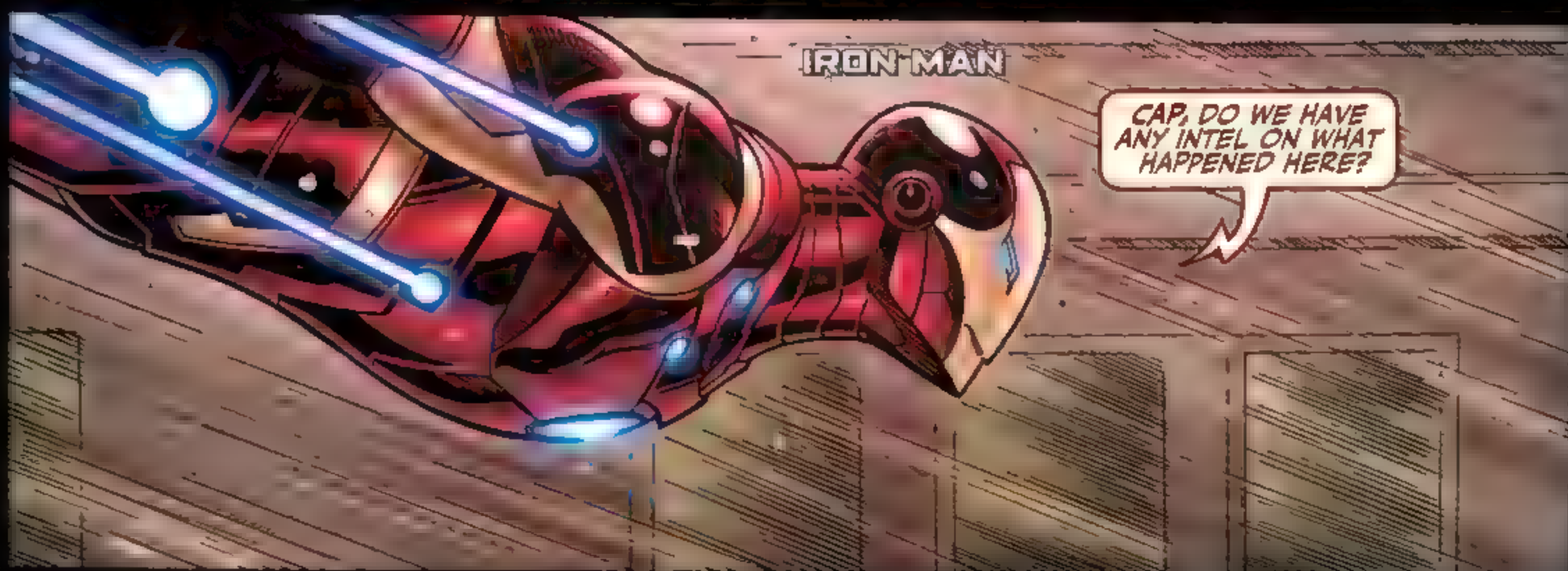
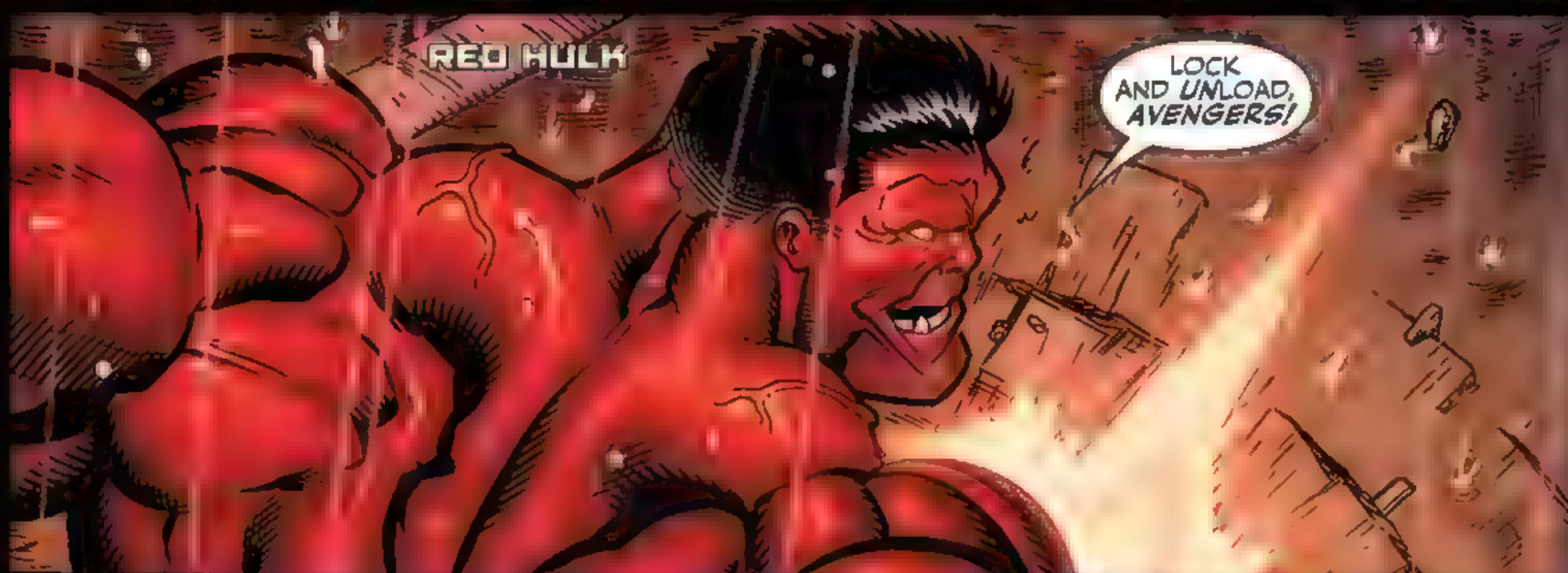
AVENGERS

SANCTION

**ISSUE ONE
PREVIEW**

MARVEL

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AND THERE CAME A DAY
UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES
FOUND THEMSELVES UNITED
AGAINST A COMMON THREAT...

...TO FIGHT THE FOES
NO SINGLE SUPER HERO
COULD WITHSTAND.
ON THAT DAY,

THE AVENGERS

WERE BORN!

THE MISSION'S
PRETTY CLEAR,
PEOPLE.

WE ROUND UP
THE LETHAL LEGION
AND WE CALL IT
A NIGHT.


CUTTING THIS
SHORT, LASER.
I'VE GOT PLANS THAT
DEFINITELY DON'T
INCLUDE YOU.

THERE'S AN
EENSY-WEENSY
SPIDER JOKE
SOMEWHERE IN
ALL THIS RAIN
AND I'M GONNA
FIND IT...

GREEN.
RADIOACTIVE.
AND YOU THINK
YOU CAN
TAKE ME?

IT'S BEEN
DONE.



 I'M A SOLDIER...

THERE ARE DAYS...
YEARS...WHEN ALL
I'VE KNOWN IS WAR.

AND LIKE IN ANY WAR,
THERE ARE SACRIFICES
THAT HAVE TO BE MADE.







EMPIRE